

## HOUSE BILL NO. 414

INTRODUCED BY G. BENNETT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT APPROPRIATING MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR GRANTS TO COUNTY HEALTH BOARDS IN COUNTIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED A PROLIFERATION OF TREMOLITE ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES FOR ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASE PROGRAMS THAT SUPPLEMENT HEALTH CARE PLANS AND PROVIDE SCREENING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, ongoing litigation with W.R. Grace & Company and delays at the federal level in approving asbestos-related legislation put future funding for programs that assist those exposed to asbestos in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, programs providing annual screening benefits to individuals exposed to asbestos and supplementing the health care needs of individuals diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases have limited funding.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$1.75 million for the 2010 fiscal year and \$1.5 million for the 2011 fiscal year from the general fund to the department of public health and human services. The money may be used only for grants to county health boards or their designees in counties that have experienced a proliferation of tremolite asbestos-related diseases for programs that pay certain costs associated with annual screenings for asbestos-related diseases and that assist individuals who have a positive result as determined by a qualified physician for asbestos-related diseases and who have medical needs that are not fully covered by a governmental, group, or individual health care plan.

(2) At the end of the 2010 fiscal year, the department shall prepare a report outlining the number of participants assisted through the grant program, the amount of funding needed by each participant, and the estimated funding needed to pay the future costs of participants. If the report is not received by the children, families, health, and human services interim committee, pursuant to 5-5-225, by June 30, 2010, the fiscal year 2011 appropriation is void.

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2        **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2009.

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